(ii) An outlay of Rs. 174.77 crore was approved for the Village and Small Scale Industry Sector for the 9th Plan of Assam. The outlay for the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 34.98 crore.

(c) While development of small scale industries in the States is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments, the Central Government has been helping the States including Assam in their endeavour of SSI development by implementing various schemes such as Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (made liberal for NE states including Assam), Transport Subsidy Scheme (which has been extended upto 31.3.2007 for the North-Eastern States), creation of Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres, Consultancy facilities and services facilities for technological upgradation, entrepreneurship development etc. will continue with the help of institutions like Small Industries Service Institute, Guwahati, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati and Regional Office of the National Small Industries Corporation, Guwahati. These schemes/ programmes would continue for the year 2000-2001 in Assam.

Expansion and development of Small Scale Industries

†1657. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the year-wise total number of persons who have been provided employment by small and cottage industries during the last three years separated and what was its percentage against the total employment provided by industries;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government during the past one year and are likely to be taken to ensure the expansion and development of these industries in the future; and

(c) what was the total number of units of small, rural and cottage industries in operation all over the country as on 31st December, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The number of persons who have been provided employment in small scale and cottage industries during the last three years are given below:—

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Year	No. of persons(in lakhs)
1996-97	224
1997-98	229
1998-99	235

The Small and Cottage industries constitute more than 50% of industrial employment.

(b) Promotion of small and cottage industries for increasing the employment opportunities is one of the accepted policies of the government. Government has been running a large number of schemes for promotion of SSI sector, these include technology upgradation, market development, infrastructure development, entrepreneurship development, and dissemination of information. Credit to SSI sector has been facilitated by incresing collateral free loans limits and enhancing the limit of composite loan through single window. A Credit Guarantee Scheme is being started to gruarantee loan upto Rs. 10 lakh to remove the problem of collaterals for small and cottage industries.

(c) Total number of units of small scale industries was 30.14 lakh which includes 23.52 lakh registered SSI units as on 31.3.1998. As on 31.3.1998 there were 4969 institutions registered directly with the KVIC and 30129 cooperative societies and 784981 individual units registered with KVI Boards. Number of Coir units registered with the Coir Board was 7259 as on 31.3.1998.

Amount sanctioned under PMRY

†1658. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided to each State during the last three years for providing employment to Urban Unemployed person under the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana alongwith amount spent by the State Government, year-wise;

(b) whether any monitoring arrangement have been made to see that the money provided to the unemployed youth's is being properly used; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the results of the investigation?

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.